

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, July 28. 1709.

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I Am debating a nice Point in the Case of a Peace—Our People are so forward upon the Surrender of the Town of *Tournay*, that they will have it, that a Peace is the immediate Consequence of it Innumerable Stories we raise every Hour, of the French sending for a Pass for more Plenipotentiaries, and making new Offers, having Monsieur *Torey*, *Incognito*, at their Elbow to treat, &c.

I Pray, Gentlemen, will you have Patience? There is nothing at all in this, but your blind *Exchange-Alley* Imagination; 'tis all a Stock-jobbing Fraud—The Taking of *Tournay* is not one Step the nearer to your Entry into *France*, than the Taking of *Lille*, other than it is leaving them one Frontier-

Town less than they had before; but *Lille* is nearer *France* than *Tournay*, the last is rather behind it—If you can advance, and beat the *French* out of their Lines, or bring them to a Battle, there may be some Hopes of bringing their Monarch upon his Knees—But if not—The great Attempt of entring *France* must be yet adjourn'd to some other Time—And till you can do that—Your Taking ten Towns more from them in *Flanders* will not do it.

You will indeed secure your open Towns by a good Barrier, and may carry the War any other Way—But as to entring *France*, unless the *French* Army can be again beaten, it is plain, this is no easier than it was before the Siege of *Tournay*. Let them, that dispute

pute this, examine the Towns before you—and which must be taken, before the French Frontier is beaten down; and take them which way you please, from *Lille*, or from *Tournay*.

From *Lille*.

You have *Douay* on the Left, *Tpres*, *St. Omer*, *Mont-Cassel*, and *Aire* on the Right, *Arras* and *Dourlans* in the Front. Then *Amiens*, formerly very strong, and easie to be made so again, begins the French Territory.

This Way, with the French Army so entrench'd between *Lens* and *Douay*, as not to be attack'd, is already determin'd to be impracticable—The Army therefore to enlarge their Entrance, say some, turn back to the Siege of *Tournay*; let us then see, what lies before them in their Way into France.

From *Tournay*.

Here you have *Conde* and *Valenciennes*, *Quesnoy*, and *Landrecies* on the Left, *Douay*, and *Arras* on the Right, and *Cambray* in Front; all these are compleat Fortifications, and very strong; then have you *Peronne* and *la Fere* on the Entrance into France, formerly counted impregnable.

Whether this be an easier Way to enter France than the other, let any one judge.

If any Man ask me what I mean by this—I answer, in short to undeceive your forward Expectations of immediate Terror upon France from taking of Towns. No, no, Gentlemen, if you wounded France no deeper by the War, than your taking Towns will do, you will not reduce him to sign the Preliminaries these 7 Years.

But this War makes deeper Impressions upon France another way; and this is what must and will reduce him to a Necessity of complying with your own Conditions—And this is the Expence of the War—And this is evident by its terrible Consequences.

Two Things have carry'd on this War, Army and Money—The latter has operated in two Branches, Cash and Credit,

and the last twenty times as extensive as the first, both with us and with our Enemies; the Effect of this upon the War has always been sufficient to tell us, That when it fails, the War must end; when the Credit dies on either hand, that Hand must drop the Sword; it is impossible, that Armies can a&t without Money, or Money be supply'd without Credit.

The Affairs of France are visible Proofs of it, and indeed so are our own; while our Credit was low, and the publick Funds sunk under large Discounts, and Parliamentary Deficiencies, the French beat us on every Occasion; not the greatest Captain the World has produc'd, the Glorious King *William*, could prevent it; late Preparations, embezled Stores, empty Magazines, discourag'd Officers, and starv'd Soldiers, were Things, no Hero could struggle with, and none but King *William* could have carry'd it on so far under such Disadvantages—

The Tables are now turn'd, your Credit is recover'd, your Funds compleatly answer, every Thing is answer'd effectually, and in Time, tho' at the same time you bear the Author of that Economy. But thus it is—And the French have now the labouring Oar, their Credit is broke, their Funds deficient, their Bills or Tallys at a vast Discount—And what is the Consequence? — Their Preparations are late, their Affairs all in Confusion, their Councils divided, their Officers discourag'd, their Soldiers disheartn'd and deserting.

Not all the Victories you have gain'd, not all the Towns you have taken, not the Miseries of Famine, and Want of Bread, have half so much broken into their Strength, as the Breach of their Credit, and Want of Money— Their Credit is so low among themselves, that a Merchant embark'd with the Government, is immediately look'd upon as ruin'd, and no Man cares to trust him; the Money for Payment of their Armies, either in *Flanders* or *Piedmont*, is fair to be sent by Land-Carriage in Specie, for no Man will give Bills for it—or accept Bills for it from one Part to another.

They have labour'd thro' this Years Preparations by the meer Strength of their Specie, the timely Supplies they had from America,

*America, and the Plate of the Gentry*—But this will expire with the Year—and their vast Expence must destroy them; this will bring them down, and this only will do it—Indeed it would hasten this, if you could penetrate into their Country, by which you would still shorten their Funds, by impoverishing the People that must pay them. But hitherto we see, this is not so easie as we imagine— But let us be easie, if we have any true Account of the Affairs of *France*, the Misery of the Country, the Un-easiness of the People, the Disorder of their Finances or Treasury—they will, they must comply with you.

But it comes before us now to examine, what People mean by the *French* signing the Preliminaries, as if now whenever the King of *France* pleases to send Word, he will agree to the Preliminaries, the Peace is made.

But let me note to you, that the main Article, upon which the whole Substance of the Preliminaries depended, is dissolv'd by the Day of the Cessation of Arms being now expir'd— And this is so essential to the rest, that it has effectually dissolv'd the

Preliminaries, and a Lengthning out that Cessation no way answers the Case, but perfectly destroys it. *For Example,*

The Confederates, as a Security that the Articles should be made good, and that *Spain* should be effectually deliver'd up to them by the *French*, were to have the immediate Possession of such and such Towns, which were mention'd in the Treaty, and which the *French* were to surrender to them— A Cessation of Arms was to be granted, as a Recels to the *French*, to settle their own Frontiers, and to give up these Towns— But was to determine the 1st of *August*, that if after the Surrender of the Towns, the *French* should trifle in the main Article of surrendering *Spain*, the Confederates might have so much of the Campaign before them to enter upon Action, and oblige them to it by Force.

If then you renew the Cessation for two Months, the Campaign is over, the Opportunity of forcing the Execution is lost, and the *French* have another Winter to restore their Affairs in.

I shall speak of the Remedy for this in my next.

## MISCELLANEA.

I must break off my Discourse of the Improvement of Lands in *Scotland* for one Paper or two, only to say one Word more about the *Palestine* Refugees— And this is in Answer to those People, who now seem to be discontent, that these poor People shall be sent away from us—for all are not so blind as some; there are Gentlemen among us, whose Eyes are open to the Advantages of settling these People among us, especially if they might be planted in Colonies, &c. others are for their being separately employ'd by such Gentlemen, as being Musters of great Undertakings, may do it without Injury to others.

But give me leave to offer one Thing to the Commissioners, or to whom else it may concern, and which seems a Thing not very much thought of, when a Publication was

made to receive Proposals for employing them in *England*, and that is, The Constitution of *England*, with Respect to the Law of Parochial Settlement, make it impracticable for any Man to employ them, otherwise than by Colonies— *For Example,*

Suppose I am a Manufacturer, or a Husbandman, and I am willing to employ one, two, ten, or twenty Families of these poor People—I cannot do it, unless I will at the same time give Security to the Parish, that neither they nor any of their Children shall be a Charge to the Parish— Nay, so strict have the Parishes been in such Cases, that I have known them refuse a Gentleman's personal Security, and demand a real Security of Land to protect them.

But

But in the Case of these poor People, it is still worse; for no Parish will let these People set their Foot in it, till Security is first given; for in the Case of our own Poor, if I am Church-warden, and a poor Family is brought into the Parish, and the Person that receives them will not give Security, I can take the Constable and a Pass, and send them from Parish to Parish, to the Place from whence they come, because they certainly came from some Parish or other; and that Parish, where they were born, or where they had their last legal Settlement, is oblig'd to receive them—But if one of these People or Families should but sit down on the Ground in a Parish—I cannot say, it is in the Power of that Parish to turn them out again, for they could pass them no whither, unless they would have the Impudence to send them back to the QUEEN.

Nay, if I had appointed to carry a Number of them to *Scotland* or *Ireland* by Land, I will not say, that the Parishes on the Road were oblig'd to let them travel thro' their Bounds; since if any of them fell sick by the Way, so as not to be able to travel, that Parish was for ever bound to receive and maintain them; for they could neither pass them backward or forward—None of the Neighbouring Parishes would receive them.

Let any Man examine the Laws for passing and settling the Poor, and he will find all this and more is very true. How then any Man, or Body of Men, can make Proposals to employ these People, the Gentlemen concern'd would do well to consider; and whenever the Commissioners please to remove this Difficulty, I know of several Gentlemen that are both able and willing to set many Hundreds of them immediately to work; but till then, it is impossible.

#### Advertisement.

I receiv'd an angry Letter from a Gentleman in this Week (who' instead he does not write like a Gentleman) upon the Subject of planting the Palatines—My Answer, which he press'd for, is in short this—His Passion at the Author of the Review is pleas'd so to mix his

Argument with ill Language, that it is hard to answer him as he deserves—If he pleases to give the Author of the Review Room to treat him with good Manners, by making Use of some himself, I shall be always ready, calmly either to answer his Argument, or meet him upon the Subject, as he proposes—But if he wants Temper to write, no doubt he will want Temper to talk—and I have other Business than to meet with Men that are unconquerable—Whenever he pleases to print his Objections, either to my Allegations in particular, or to settling the poor Palatines in general, as he threatens to do, if it deserves it, he shall not want a Reply; in the mean time, till he can talk with more Respect, he merits no more Regard, he may do as he pleases.

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